

PHILIPPINES

MORE THAN 7,000 ISLANDS and islets rise from a partly submerged mountain chain to form the Philippines. Largely tropical wilderness, 90 percent of the islands are uninhabited, 60 percent unnamed. Two-thirds of the population lives on the two largest islands, Luzon and Mindanao.

Predominantly of Malay origin, Filipinos trace their origins as far back as 3000 B.C., to the first immigrants from Indonesia and Malaya. Hillside terraced with rice fields bear witness to ancient engineering skills.

In the 14th century Arab missionaries brought Islam to the Sulu and other southern islands. The Christian influence dates from 1521, when Magellan landed on Cebu, opening the way for Spanish colonization in 1565. Spain's rule lasted 333 years, ending with the Spanish-American War. The United States guided the Philippines during the next 48 years, leaving a heritage of language and liberty. The nation became fully independent on July 4, 1946.

GOVERNMENT: Republic. **LAND AREA:** 115,830 square miles, about the size of Arizona, extending 1,150 miles north and south, the sweep of Washington, Oregon, and California combined. **POPULATION:** 12,600,000, mainly of Malay stock. **LANGUAGE:** Officially Filipino (Tagalog), English (spoken by 40%), Spanish. Well-known native dialects. **RELIGIONS:** 83% Roman Catholic; Aglipayan (an independent Christian sect), Moslem, Protestant minorities. **ECONOMY:** Crops: sugar, abaca, lumber, fishing, gold, lead, manganese, iron, copper, chrome. **CITIES:** Manila, port, industrial center (pop. 1,570,000); Quezon City (Manila suburb), capital; Baguio, summer capital; Pasay; Cebu. **CLIMATE:** Hot, humid, heavy rainfall.

Elevations in Feet. Soundings in Fathoms.
Places with Scheduled Air Service
Major Battles: Land Sea



